Group of Ministers to study the uplinking policy for TV channels proposed by the Ministry;

(b) whether any representation has been received for carrying out a study of uplinking policy;

(c) if so, the details of representations and the persons/organizations from which such representations have been received; and

(d) whether the uplinking policy is permitted through Ku-Band?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to examine the Note for Cabinet on Review of Uplinking Policy, the Cabinet approved the proposal in its meeting on 20.10.2005 and thereafter the revised and consolidated guidelines were issued on 2.12.2005.

(b) and (c) No such representation has been received since 2.12.2005.

(d) Uplinking in Ku-Band has been permitted under the revised uplinking guidelines issued on 2.12.2005.

Advertisement of liquor and tobacco in electronic and print media

†`806. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the advertisement of liquor and tobacco are being openly displayed and printed in electronic/print media in violation of Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and section 13, sub section 2(c) of Press Council Act, 1978 and the rules formulated under the same; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to ban the said advertisements completely?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All the advertisements/programmes of satellite TV channels transmitted or retransmitted through the Cable Television Network are required to adhere

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to the provisions of the Advertising Code, prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. As per Rule 7 (2) (viii) (A) of the Advertising Code, No advertisment shall be permitted which promotes directly or indirectly production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products, wine, alcohol, liquor or other intoxicants.

The Central Government has constituted an inter-ministerial Committee to take cognizance *suo-moto* or look into specific complaints regarding violation of advertising code by TV channels.

The Press in India is free from Government control and is in private hands. In pursuance of its policy to uphold freedom of Press, the Government does not interfere in its functioning. The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act 1978, with the twin objective of preserving the Freedom of Press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and to inculcate principles of self regulation among the press. The Government follows a policy of non-interference in the functioning of the Council and it enjoys complete autonomy in its functioning. The Council, which is in a nature of a self regulatory body of the Press, has built "Norms of Journalistic Conduct", which cover the principles and ethics with regard to Journalism, as also guidelines on reporting specific issues of Public and National importance. As per the provisions of the Norms of Journalistic Conduct Concerning Advertisements 36(H) - No advertisements shall be published which promotes directly or indirectly production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products, wine, alcohol, liquor and other intoxicants. The advisories issued by the Press Council of India, however, carry only moral force and are not enforceable in Court of Law.

Adult contents on TV channels

807. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry would allow adult content on TV late night;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has formulated any policy in this connection; and

(c) how would Government regulate such channels?